

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

May 22, 2001

LB 329

meet halfway in between. This does require a 60-40 match by the NRDs. And I think we have a commitment from the NRDs that they will do that. And then, of course, next year at this time we will have a track record when session starts. I would guess it is possible, of the 23 NRDs, that maybe there might be one or two that would not participate in the program, but I would assume those would be an NRD in a more remote area of the state of Nebraska, where they don't have a water quality program. But certainly the NRDs, like the Twin Platte NRD, Central Platte NRD, Tri-Basin NRD, where we do have water quality problems, I'm very confident that those NRDs have made a commitment to this program and will do the 60-40 match. I would like to commend Senator Beutler for his effort to reinstate funds for this program. I don't know how many bills he's introduced, I know I've introduced several, last year and this year. But I think between the two of us we probably introduced about ten bills to try and adequately fund this program. It has been lapsing now; that's disappointing to me. And I'm not sure this was enough money, but I think it's a good start. And at this time next year, or before the session is over next year we'll have a better handle on how this program is working. And I'm confident it will work. And so, with that, that is my opening on this amendment to LB 329. You have a chart on how it affects the NRDs. Certainly, LB 329 addresses the issue of the natural resource districts and their levy limits. If you follow through on the chart, you'll see that the Upper Republican NRD has the least taxing room, but they can stay within their .045 levy with this program and do a 60-40 match. It's very tight, but they can do that. With that, I will...I will close. This will be my opening. If you have any questions, I'd be glad to try to answer them. I appreciate the patience of the people involved, certainly the first part of this bill that we put out of committee, and we thought we were going to pass it a lot earlier in this session, we were getting a lot of objections to that portion of it because it had a fertilizer fee in it. So, thank you for your time.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, the first amendment to the Schrock amendment by Senator Beutler, AM1968. (Legislative Journal